

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 11:05 AM
To: Rep.Knudson
Subject: Proposed state budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Rep. Knutson,

I am writing to you deeply concerned about the proposed state budget. I just can't believe how extreme and polarizing it is. There are so many items in it that I disagree with I don't even know where to start. First of all, I was shocked to hear that the "school voucher" program is now expanded to all of the schools in the state. I strongly disagree with the voucher program and how the state wants to expand it. When it first started it was intended for kids and families in Milwaukee who were in poverty to have a choice other than the inner-city struggling schools that were in their neighborhoods. Now, families making up to \$70,000 can "choose" to enroll their kids in private schools who will now receive public tax dollars instead of the public schools who so desperately need it. Private schools have no accountability to anyone except themselves. They don't have publicly elected school boards and they don't have to answer anyone. Private schools don't have to take any kid to wants to enroll there especially those kids with special education needs, behavioral or mental health issues, or ESL concerns—those are the areas that really drain schools financially. Also, there is no evidence to support the notion that private schools perform better on state-wide assessments or on other performance measures. Please send me any research or studies that say otherwise. While it is required in the state constitution that public schools must provide a free public education to EVERYONE, private schools get to pick and choose who they allow in. That's just not right if they are receiving any public dollars!!

I also don't understand how the state wants to decline federal Medicaid dollars and will make families making over \$24,000 ineligible for Medicaid. I'm sure you have NO IDEA how difficult it is to raise a family of 4 on \$25,000 and then those very same people won't be eligible for Medicaid. Yet, a family of 4 making up to \$70,000 will be eligible to use a school voucher for a private school. That doesn't make any sense.....Shame on you!

Finally, what are the legislators doing sticking their noses into UW and trying to eliminate the Center of investigative journalism? Talk about petty. And the republicans are always touting the notion of "getting the government out of people's business" and then you propose this? I guess republicans like yourself think "big government" is only a problem when it goes against things that you want, but it is OK when trying to get things that you want. Give me a break.

In closing, my family and I want you to represent our voices.....not the hidden agenda of the republican party and Scott Walker. I am an independent and have voted for you and some other republicans in the past, but with the current state of affairs and the republican's radical position on many of these topics, I just can't vote for people like you or the republicans who have such extreme views on education and health care especially. It is very short-sighted on your and the other republicans' part and will likely cost you and other republican's your jobs in the future.

Deeply concerned,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 06, 2013 2:29 AM
To: Rep.Knudson
Subject: RE: A Responsible, Pro-Growth Budget

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Dean,

How does this fit into "responsible budgeting"?

At about 6 a.m. today, Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee lawmakers voted 12-4 — with Republicans in the majority — to add a provision to the state budget expelling the non-partisan Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism from its University of Wisconsin-Madison offices. Also, lawmakers want to prohibit UW faculty from working with the center.

Is this some crack-pot Libertarian idea?

I can't imagine that ALEC had developed a model bill for something this specific. So what is the reason?

Speculation is that perhaps some Junior Fascist at the Bradley Foundation hyper-ventilated and recommended that Socialist Organization should be banned from the University Campus

Please explain in a rational fashion.

[REDACTED]

From: Dean Knudson [mailto:rep.knudson@legis.wisconsin.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 5:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A Responsible, Pro-Growth Budget

